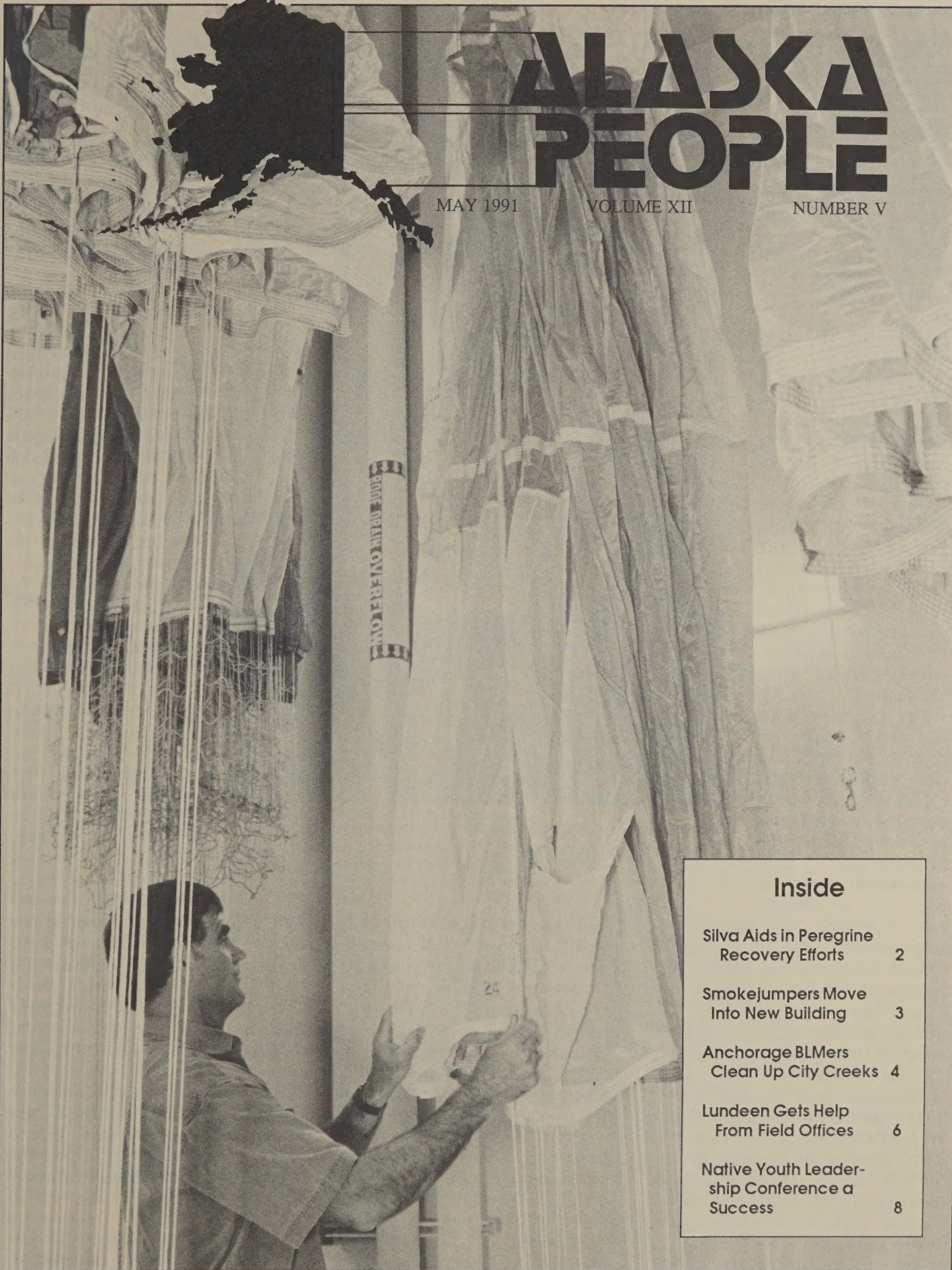




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Silva Aids in Peregrine Falcon Recovery Efforts

by Sharon Durgan Wilson

Jim Silva, wildlife biologist for the Arctic District, has spent the last 11 years working in remote areas of northern Alaska that few people even get to see.

Silva's main interest is birds of prey, and much of his work with the Arctic District has involved recovery of the threatened and endangered Arctic peregrine falcon.

"Soon after I came to Alaska, the peregrine recovery plan for Alaska was formulated," Silva said. "The bird had been listed nationally as an endangered species, which gave it more protection."

The recovery plan set goals, like the numbers of birds and their desired physical condition, that would signal if or when the recovery of both subspecies was successful. When the plan was developed, the number of birds was approximately 24 pairs on the Colville River and four pairs on the Sagavanirktok River.

Silva has worked with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel and other BLMers to achieve recovery.

Every summer Silva and a team of biologists float the Colville and Sagavanirktok rivers in the arctic areas of northern Alaska to collect data. They locate nests and count the number of adult breeding pairs, eggs and chicks of Arctic peregrine falcons, gyrfalcons, rough-legged hawks and cliff-nesting Canada geese. The biologists check



Arctic District wildlife biologist Jim Silva holds a young peregrine fledgling after banding its leg for future tracking. (Photo by Carl Johnson)

numbers on banded birds to monitor the number of returning pairs. When chicks are young, the biologists weigh them, take blood samples and band them for future tracking.

By the summer of 1990, Silva and the other biologists counted 51 pairs of Arctic peregrines on the Colville River and 10 pairs on the Sag River. "That's more than called for in the recovery plan," Silva said, "and the habitat can support more birds, so I think all the efforts to protect and nurture the species have paid off."

Working with peregrines is a

unique experience, according to Silva. "Sometimes a real mean one will hit one of us on the head while protecting her nest," Silva says.

Working in the arctic provides other surprises, Silva found. "One morning I opened the tent door to find a grizzly bear standing 10 to 15 feet away. My shotgun was on the floor of the tent, but I knew that at that range, even if it was in my hand, I wouldn't be able to shoot fast enough. Instinctively I yelled as loud as I could. It surprised him and he hightailed out of there, over the snow bank and over the hill. Great way to start the morning," Silva commented as he shook his head.

Silva recently accepted a position as district wildlife biologist in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he will

advise three district biologists. His wildlife programs will be different, dealing with antelope, deer and elk. And he will still work with threatened and endangered species, but they will include southern spotted owls, lizards and snakes.

Silva will leave Alaska around the first of June. "I'll miss the isolation of the north slope," he said. "There aren't many places you can float for 300 miles and not see anyone else."

AFS Smoke-jumpers Move into New Fire Operations Building

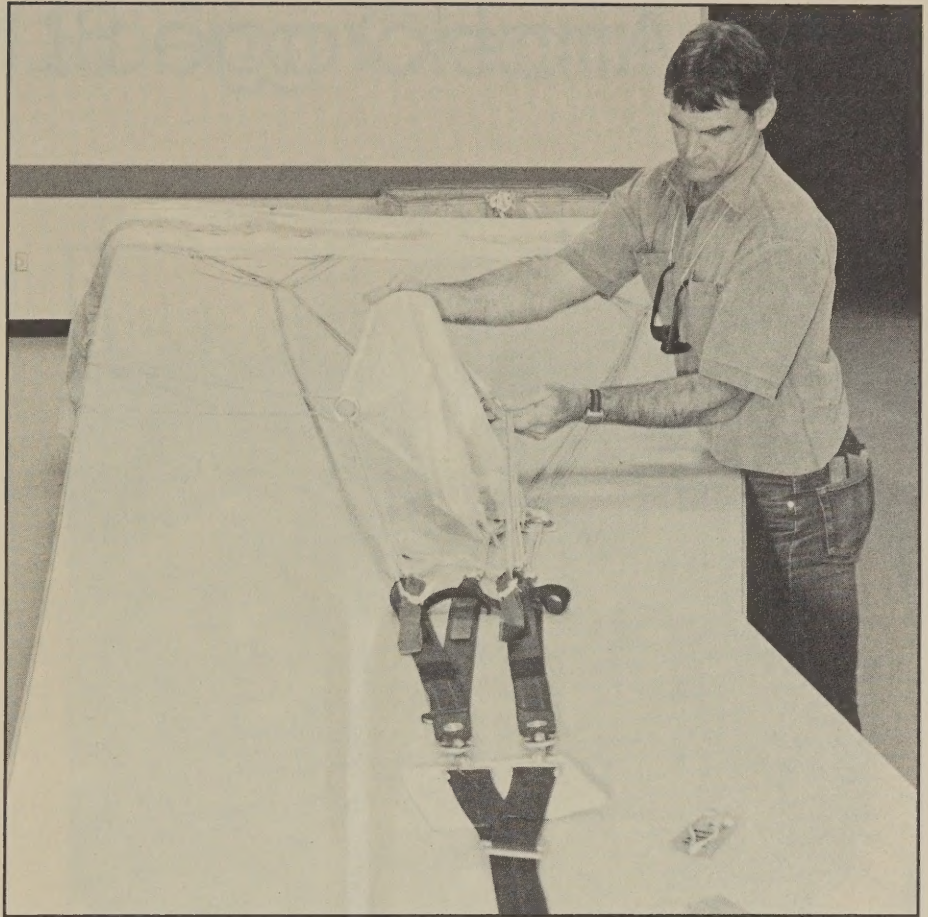
by Sue Mitchell

The smell of paint is still in the air, but the Alaska Fire Service smokejumpers have moved all but the paracargo operation into the new fire operations building. The building will eventually house the fire suppression specialists, hot shots and dining hall also, but for now only the smokejumper area is finished.

The difference from the old building is "like night and day," said Smokejumper Chief Rodger Vorce. "We'll all be located under one roof finally, instead of people having to travel a quarter-mile between buildings. There's more space and decent showers. It's a functional building. The designers put a lot of thought into it, and the layout is logical, from backhaul through rehab and packing the chutes to getting them out the door and into an airplane."

Before the parachute loft was in an old warehouse building. The roof leaked, and the insulation was inadequate. The paracargo and standby shack was in a World War II vintage building, also with a leaky roof and uneven floors. More importantly, people wasted a lot of time moving gear from one place to another in the poorly laid out, cramped spaces.

Phase II of construction on the new building begins this fall. The dining hall, fire suppression specialist and hot shot areas should be complete by April 1992. A dedication is planned for this summer. Meanwhile the smokejumpers are glad to be moving in. While the work of



AFS Smokejumper Chief Rick Russell begins the process of packing a parachute in the new fire operations building. (Photo by Dan Gullickson)

unpacking, building parachute packing tables, and packing and inspecting parachutes is still going on, the smokejumpers were ready to fight fires by April 29.

"This new building is built to withstand hard work, and at the same time it's nice looking," said Vorce. "We're all really pleased with it."



AFS smoke-jumpers Scott Dewitz, right, and Pat Shearer build a table for rigging parachutes. (Photo by Dan Gullickson)

Anchorage BLMers TAKE PR

by Jim Mroczek

If you passed by the Anchorage morning of May 5, you probably thought for a fishing or camping rendezvous. Enthusiastic BLMers were heading for trash in Ship Creek and along its annual spring cleanup.

This year's pickings resulted in 15 rare finds as a bowling ball, shopping

Two local transients volunteered to differentiate between occupied and home to many of the city's homeless.

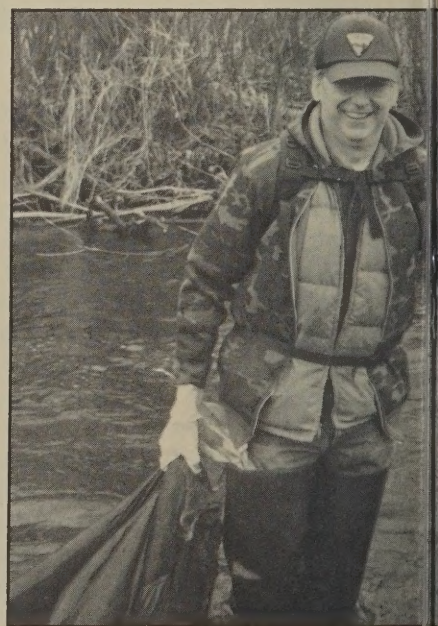
The crew worked up enormous appetites, where they collapsed amid

Ned Darling headed the cleanup of 45 employees scoured the Camp property and collected enough trash

All participants received passes for Council cleanup and celebration of Marcia Walker, cleanup coordinator. Participants to bring unique "finds" out for the most interesting finds.



Above: Bob Conquergood of Support Services and Joe McDowell of Conveyances Division share a joke as they heave yet another bag of trash onto the truck. Center: Wayne Boden, DSD for Conveyances Division, dons hip waders to collect trash in the chilly waters of Ship Creek. Top left: Cheryl Anzivino of Conveyances and Ralph Ahgupuk of Cadastral Survey grab a fresh bag and start up the creek bank. Bottom left: ASO cleanup coordinator Marcia Walker of Conveyances Division lends a hand as industrious BLMers collected enough trash to fill 15 one-ton trucks. (Photos by Jim Mroczek)



DE in Annual Spring Cleanup

federal Office Building garage on the
ght federal workers were gearing up
is. But actually the group of 35
out to Warehouse Avenue to collect
mbankment as part of Anchorage's

ne-ton truckloads of debris, and such
g carts, and even a fire hydrant.
eir services as well to help BLMers
noccupied "campsites." The area is
and less fortunate.

etites and found their way to Burger
cks of burgers and fries.

ort at BLM's Campbell Tract, where
ll Creek where it flows onto BLM
to fill a 5-ton truck.

attend the Anchorage Waterways
May 18 at Valley of the Moon Park.
ator for ASO, encourages BLM
the event, where prizes will be given



Lundeen Enlists Help of Field Offices in 3809 Com- pliance Work

by Sue Mitchell

A 20-percent increase in workload with no increase in staff or dollars has left Steve Lundeen, lead for the surface mining compliance program in the Kobuk District, "barely keeping my head above water."

Since 1989, filings for the district have increased from 44 to a record-breaking 54, and could exceed 60 this year, according to Lundeen.

These operations are scattered across 26 million acres of BLM-managed land in an 89-million-

acre district. Forty-four of the operations can be reached only by airplane or helicopter at an average cost of \$700 per inspection. Lundeen often squeezes two inspections a day into a field season only four months long.

To deal with the increasing workload in the Kobuk District, Lundeen has enlisted the help of the field office staff in Nome and Kotzebue. Each office will eventually become the lead for the mining program in their area. Lundeen will be responsible for the 70 percent of operations in the district which lies east of Galena and west of Fairbanks.

Spreading the workload like this will give BLM employees better relationships with the miners, who will also benefit from having someone nearby to work with. Lundeen will no longer be trapped by weather for days at a time in Nome or Kotzebue, waiting to make a flight to a mine. Instead, the BLM employee in the field office will be

able to work in the office until weather permits a flight, and then immediately take advantage of a break in the weather.

Despite the growing workload, Lundeen has managed to aggressively enforce 3809 regulations. His field inspections have resulted in more notices of non-compliance than in previous years.

Surface mining compliance may seem dull to some, but Lundeen sees it as a challenge and an adventure.

"I enjoy seeing as much of Alaska as possible and meeting the cross-section of people that I deal with," he said. "And I feel good about the program. I definitely feel at the end of every field season that the program's better off than it was before."

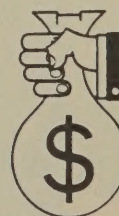


Natural resource specialist Steve Lundeen takes a break atop some old mining equipment during a recent 3809 inspection. (Photo by Howard Smith)

U.S. Savings Bonds: The Great American Investment

From May 1 through June 30, BLMers have the opportunity to enroll in the U.S. Savings Bonds Payroll Savings Plan. It's the safe, convenient way to invest in the future. And interest earned on savings bonds purchased since January 1, 1990, is now tax-free when used to pay college tuition.

Put your child at the head of the class. Start a tax-free college fund today with U.S. Savings Bonds.



A pplause

Sustained Superior Performance Award

Lisa Burgess, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management
Merrie John, Computer Specialist, ASO Division of Information Resources Management

On-the-Spot Cash Award

Jim Mroczek, Visual Information Specialist, Office of Public Affairs

Quality Increase Award

Stan Curtis, Supervisory Computer Specialist, ASO Division of Information Resources Management

Length of Service

10 Year Service Award

James Ducker, Land Use Planner, ASO Office of Management, Planning and Budget
Howard Levine, Land Use Planner, ASO Office of Management, Planning and Budget

20 Year Service Award

Brian Anderson, Land Surveyor, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

Welcome Aboard (April 1991)

Clay Dalen, Forestry Technician (Smokejumper), Alaska Fire Service
Paul Boos, Outdoor Recreation Planner, ASO Division of Lands and Renewable Resources
Claire Worden, Food Service Assistant (Typing), Alaska Fire Service
Tracy Walker, Miscellaneous Documents Clerk (Typing), ASO Division of Conveyance Management

Betsy Vanek, Miscellaneous Documents Clerk (Typing), ASO Division of Conveyance Management
Kenita Stenroos, Civilian Pay Technician, Alaska Fire Service
Thomas Romanello, Forestry Technician (Smokejumper), Alaska Fire Service
Clinton Hanson, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management
Andrew Gifford, Jr., Criminal Investigator, Office of State Director
Albert Baker, Electronics Mechanic, Alaska Fire Service
Sherman Bell, Land Surveyor, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey
Joseph Doty, Forestry Technician, Alaska Fire Service
Randy Lenon, Forestry Technician, Alaska Fire Service
Thomas Evans, Jr., Forestry Technician, Alaska Fire Service
Donald Mulder, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management
Dorothy More, Accounting Technician, Alaska Fire Service
Mitchel Decoteau, Lead Forestry Technician (Smokejumper), Alaska Fire Service
James Kitchen, Jr., Forestry Technician (Smokejumper), Alaska Fire Service
Christopher Palmer, Forestry Technician (Smokejumper), Alaska Fire Service

Moving On (April 1991)

Scott Robinson, Wildlife Biologist, Kobuk District Office
Rod Bloms, Lead Forestry Technician (Smokejumper), Alaska Fire Service
Linda Dulac, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Lands and Renewable Resources
Joan Boyd, Administrative Technician, Kobuk District Office
Sheila Brown, Personnel Staffing Specialist, ASO Division of Support Services
Robert Elyard, Cartographic Aid, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey
Sandra King, Contact Representative, ASO Division of Support Services
Christopher Palmer, Forestry Technician (Smokejumper), Alaska Fire Service

In April BLM Alaska received the Secretary of the Interior's **Aviation Safety Award** for FY 90 for its outstanding efforts in aviation accident prevention. Jim Johnson, Aviation Manager for Alaska BLM, was presented the award on behalf of State Director Ed Spang at the department-wide aviation managers seminar in California last month.

On May 2 ASO hosted 11 high school seniors for **Youth In Government Day**, sponsored by the Anchorage Elks Club.

Workwise or Otherwise

During this career day event, students were given the opportunity to shadow BLMers and get a close look at BLM operations in the state office.

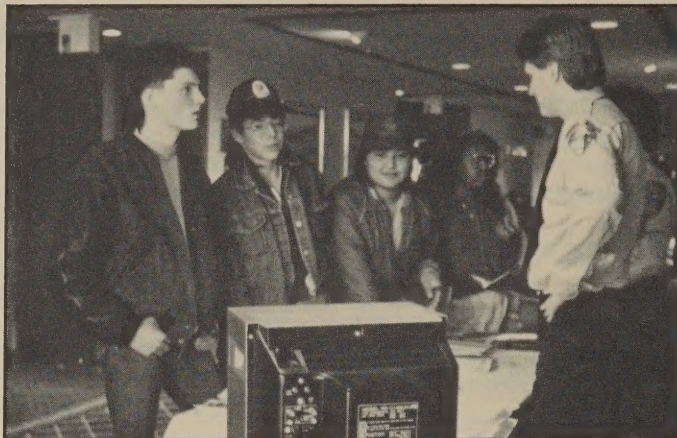
The **RAPS** program has received a donation of \$10,000 from Alyeska

Pipeline Service Company, operators of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. These funds will enable four Alaska Native youths to participate in this year's program.

Harold Littlebird, Native American poet and singer/songwriter, will perform May 20 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Executive Dining Room of the Anchorage Federal Office Building. BLMers are encouraged to attend this unique performance and experience the songs, poems and storytelling of the American Indian culture.

Native Youth Leadership Conference a Success

VISTA volunteer John Manning (far right) talks about the RAPS program with students attending the Native Youth Leadership Conference in Anchorage.



story and photo by Karren Stockie

BLM employees Cliff Ligons of EEO and Sharon Dean of the ASO Public Room, along with VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) volunteer John Manning, staffed a booth at the tenth annual Native Youth Leadership Conference held at the Anchorage Hilton April 18-19.

The conference provided BLM with an opportunity to recruit Native youth into the federal workforce by informing them of such programs as the Resource Apprenticeship Program for Students (RAPS), the Cooperative Education Program and the BLM volunteer program.

Meet VISTA Volunteer John Manning

The RAPS program has a new VISTA volunteer. John Manning of Wichita, Kansas, is working with program coordinator Bob Jones. Manning heard about the program while working in Colorado and decided it would be a great opportunity.

"Working with BLM is fun and its exactly where I want to be," Manning said.

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On the Cover:

Alaska Fire Service smokejumper Rick Russell checks a parachute hanging in the new fire operations building. Story on page 3. (Photo by Dan Gullickson)



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